



ATFNEWS



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A G.R.E.A.T. DAY AT THE BALL PARK



DETROIT - Michael W. Morrissey, Division Director for the Detroit Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is proud to announce that on Thursday, April 22, 1999, the Detroit Tigers are stepping up to the plate to help combat violence and gangs. The Detroit Tigers will be playing their **fourth annual G.R.E.A.T. ball game** against the Boston Red Sox. The Tigers' Management dedicates one game a year to the G.R.E.A.T. kids. It is the Tiger's way of supporting the students in their quest to remain gang and violence free.

The game this year will be played on behalf of an estimated **2,800 children** who are expected to attend the 1:05 PM game. The honorees are children who have graduated, or are currently receiving lessons, under the **Gang Resistance Education And Training** Program offered throughout several Michigan communities. Students attending the game will be wearing their G.R.E.A.T. "colors" in honor of their achievements in remaining gang free. The students have learned the importance of becoming responsible members of their communities by setting goals for themselves, resisting pressures, learning how to resolve conflicts, and understanding how gangs impact the quality of their life.

The Tigers are sponsoring this annual "**Tiger G.R.E.A.T. Day**" with the ceremonial pitch to be thrown by Mr. Malcolm W. Brady, Deputy Assistant Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Dignitaries in attendance will include Chief's of Police from various law enforcement agencies that have dedicated police officers that are actively teaching the G.R.E.A.T. Program within their school districts. The students attending this

event are chaperoned by school administrators, teachers and volunteers. They are a representative sample of the approximately **23,600 children** who have received instruction from **50 active officers** from **29 agencies** throughout Michigan.

The **Gang Resistance Education And Training Program - - G.R.E.A.T. - -** was initiated in cooperation between the Phoenix, Arizona, Police Department and ATF in 1991 to deter youthful violence and crime by reducing involvement in gangs. ATF currently has numerous partnerships with local and state agencies, as well as the Boys and Girls Club of America. G.R.E.A.T. teachers are city, county, state and federal law enforcement officers. They teach elementary and middle school students about destructive consequences of gang membership.

Recreational and other community-outreach programs supplement the classroom instruction. The goals of G.R.E.A.T. include:

- * Reduce the incidence of violent youth crime
- * Resolve conflicts without resorting to violence
- * Provide youth with skills to make sound choices
- * Provide activities for G.R.E.A.T. graduates during summer months
- * Involve teachers, parents, and communities. Teach them to recognize indicators of gang involvement in their communities.

To date, approximately **3,670 officers** from over **1,290 agencies** representing **50 states**, the **District of Columbia, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and military personnel from overseas bases** have been trained to present the core curriculum in elementary, middle school classrooms. The estimated cumulative number of students who have received the G.R.E.A.T. Program well **exceeds 1.5 million.**

The agencies/communities which offer the G.R.E.A.T. Program to youth include the Cities of **Alma, Ann Arbor, Auburn Hills, Brownstown Township, Clay Township, Clawson, Detroit, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Hart, Holland, Huron Township, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Madison Heights, Pontiac, Redford Township, River Rouge, Romulus, Saginaw, Southgate, Spring Lake-Ferrysburg, Suttons Bay, Taylor, and White Lake Township**; and also include the Counties of **Leelanau, Monroe, Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne**, Michigan.

- Due to scheduling requirements, those media representatives interested in interviewing with Deputy Assistant Director Brady regarding the Tiger G.R.E.A.T. Day event and the G.R.E.A.T. Program may contact ATF PIO Vera Fedorak, @ (313) 201-4040 (pager).

- Visit ATF on the Web @ www.atf.treas.gov for additional G.R.E.A.T. Program information.